

**Summary of the North County MSCP Plan
Public EIR/EIS Scoping Meeting**

March 30, 2005
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92009

ATTENDEES:

County of San Diego:

Jeremy Buegge – DPLU, Project
Manager
Cheryl Monzon – DPLU
Adam Wagschal – DPLU

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Susan Wynn

CA Dept. of Fish and Game:

Nancy Frost

Public:

Mary Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Teigiser – Empire Land, LLC
Linda Mitrovich, Solution Strategies, Inc.
Eric Anderson, Farm Bureau
Jeff Andrews, MCB Camp Pendleton AC/S ES
Ken Quiglog, MCB Camp Pendleton AC/S ES
Jeff Galizio – Jack Henthorn & Associates
Jerry Hittleman – City of Oceanside
Jean Carr – Jones & Stokes
Don Rideout – Carlsbad
Bernice Bigelow – Cleveland National Forrest
Rikki Alberson - RMA

HANDOUTS:

- North County MSCP Plan Notice of Preparation & Initial Study
- North County MSCP Plan – Notice of Intent

I. COUNTY STAFF OVERVIEW & POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Link to the Power Point Presentation: http://dplu-mscp.sdcounty.ca.gov/pub_out/ncscopingslides.pdf

A. Purpose of public scoping meeting

- The County is seeking public agency, interest group and citizen input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be contained in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement.
- The scoping meeting is a forum to disseminate information, identify issues, review the scope of the Plan, and to an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make comments on the North County MSCP Plan.

B. Overview of the North County MSCP Plan

- The North County MSCP Plan is intended to protect key sensitive plant and animal populations and habitats within the County. It will allow currently threatened and endangered species to maintain or improve their status in the wild and eliminate the need to list more species as endangered in the future under Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The North County MSCP Plan will also provide an economic benefit by reducing constraints on future development and decreasing the costs of compliance with federal and state laws protecting biological resources.
- Designing the Preserve:
 - Conservation planning depends on sound biological & modeling principles;
 - Relative habitat values need to be assessed;
 - Many species are considered together for coverage
 - Acknowledge that there is a lack of property access to perform surveys
 - Specific Studies have been completed for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, Vernal pool species, Grasshopper sparrow, and the Arroyo toad
- Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO):
 - Implements the MSCP plan
 - Replaces Biological section of Resource Protection Ordinance
 - Uses habitat-specific mitigation ratios
 - Incentives to mitigate in Preserve
 - Provides exemptions, i.e. most single-family residences
- Next Steps of the North County MSCP Plan:
 - Work with Agencies to finalize model products
 - Future public workshops
 - Evaluate Proposal for successful coverage of Species
 - Prepare Draft Plan and present it for input
 - Update Biological Mitigation Ordinance
 - Prepare Plan & EIS/EIR for public review
 - Take plan and EIR/EIS to hearing
 - Obtain Permit from Wildlife Agencies

C. Overview of the EIS/EIR and NEPA/CEQA process

- An "EIS" or Environmental Impact Statement is required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [Federal requirement]
- An "EIR" or Environmental Impact Report is required per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [State requirement]
- Purpose of an EIR/EIS - Provides full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and ways to mitigate or avoid the effects. An EIR/EIS informs decisionmakers and the public of the reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment

- Potentially Significant Impacts and Areas of Controversy Identified in the Scoping Process:
 - Agricultural Resources
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Fire Hazards
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Mineral Resources
 - Population and Housing
 - Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
 - Transportation/Traffic
 - Water Resources/Drainage
 - Cumulative Effects
- Steps of the EIS/EIR Process (approximately 1 year to complete)
 - Notice of Intent/Preparation
 - North County MSCP Plan Documents
 - Prepare the EIS/EIR
 - Public Review of the EIS/EIR
 - Response to Comments
 - Finalize NEPA/CEQA Documents
 - Certification of the EIS/EIR

D. Contact Information

- Jeremy Buegge, DPLU, Project Manager 858-694-3719
- Cheryl Monzon, DPLU, Land Use Environmental Planner II 858-694-2964
- Adam Wagschal, DPLU, Land Use Environmental Planner I 858-495-5254
- MSCP Website: www.mscp-sandiego.org
- MSCP email address: MSCP@sdcounty.ca.gov

II. PUBLIC REQUEST TO BE HEARD

Opportunity for public agency, interest group and citizen input and questions on the scope and content of the environmental information to be contained in the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).

Q: The EIR/EIS is estimated to take a year to complete and present to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for certification. How long after the BOS certifies the EIR/EIS and adopts the Plan will it take to implement the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO) and Implementing Agreement between the County and the Wildlife Agencies? As an example, the South County MSCP Subarea Plan was adopted by the BOS in October 1997 and the BMO was implemented in March 1998. The BOS must first adopt the Plan and certify the EIR/EIS. A separate hearing will be scheduled to adopt the BMO and amend other ordinances, as needed, to implement the Plan.

- Q: Will the scope of work include the Coastal Zone?** The North County MSCP Plan will cover areas around the San Elijo Lagoon and the County Islands (within County ownership) near the City of Encinitas. Not sure if Palomar Airport areas will be covered.
- Q: Are there any other Federal agencies cooperating with the Plan?** The Bureau of Land Management is a participant in the MSCP and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildlife Agencies. The Forest Service does have key parcels within the MSCP but has not coordinated with the County. The County will coordinate with Forest Service in regards to those key parcels before the North County MSCP Map is finalized. The California Department of Fish and Game is a Trustee Agency in this process.
- Q: Other than State Route 76, are there any other large public facilities/infrastructure included with this plan such as airports, County parks, landfills, and State Route 76 (SR 76)?** Staff is looking at all County lands. Nothing is as large as the SR 76 project. The County Parks Department is looking at the San Luis Rey River Park as a part of the mitigation for the SR 76 project. This River Park is in a parallel process and most of it would be an open space park, there would be some active use areas as well as trails. We will be looking at other County projects, such as landfills. Circulation element roads will be covered under the Plan, similar to the South County Subarea Plan. Necessary infrastructure will be addressed in the Plan. County Open Space Parks are shown on the map as hardline preserve areas and associated disturbed areas, i.e. parking lots, staging areas, will be shown as Take Authorize Areas.
- Q: Under Hazards, are you looking at fire hazards, fuel management, high and very high fire zones?** Yes – that is one of the main things that will be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. That is an enormous issue.
- Q: Will the adaptive management plan be premitigated for brush management plans?** We do not plan to include brush management zones within a preserve. For any private development, brush management zones must be included in its development bubble and cannot be counted as part of its mitigation. We do not plan to premitigate for fuel breaks – this will be looked at when fire management plans are developed for each project.
- Q: Will there be enough mitigation areas to meet mitigation requirements? How will this be analyzed, i.e. Coastal Maritime Chaparral?** There is Southern Maritime Chaparral within the North County MSCP Plan boundaries – mainly in Rancho Santa Fe areas, currently mapped as Pre-approved Mitigation Areas. Many of those areas have narrow endemic species and will be covered under the narrow endemic species policy. We will be analyzing whether or not the Plan creates mitigation ratios that can be achieved within the Plan based on availability of mitigation areas.

Q: Is the North County MSCP Plan a Subarea Plan or does it stand alone?

This is a stand alone Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. This is not a subarea plan. It is a separate permit from the Wildlife Agencies and there will be a separate Implementing Agreement with the Wildlife Agencies.

III. PUBLIC INVITED TO VIEW MAPS

Available maps for viewing:

- North County MSCP Plan Map (ver 5.3)
- North County Habitat Evaluation Model
- North County Vegetation Map